

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00201 290937Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OPR-02 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 007535

R 280720Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0201

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF PRIESTS FROM MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY: ANTI-GOVERNMENT PETITION ENTITLED "AN IMPERATIVE OF CONSCIENCE" SIGNED BY BISHOP OF NAMPULA AND BY ALL MEMBERS OF PREDOMINANTLY ITALIAN COMBONIAN ORDER IN NAMPULA DIOCESE, WHICH NOW CIRCULATING WIDELY, SEEMS CERTAIN HAVE REPERCUSSIONS COMPARABLE TO THOSE FOLLOWING EXPULSION OF WHITE FATHERS, TRIAL OF MACUTI PRIESTS, AND DETENTION OF BURGOS FATHERS. IT IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF WIDENING GAP BETWEEN CHURCH AND GOVERNING AUTHORITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. AT LEAST FIVE ITALIAN (AND ONE PORTUGUESE) PRIESTS OF COMBONIAN ORDER ARE EXPECTED TO BE EXPELLED FROM MOZAMBIQUE AS RESULT OF PETITION ENTITLED "AN IMPERATIVE OF CONSCIENCE" DATED FEBRUARY 12, ADDRESSED TO EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS OF MOZAMBIQUE, SIGNED BY BISHOP OF NAMPULA AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE ORDER IN NAMPULA DIOCESE (34 PRIESTS, 19 MONKS AND 41 NUNS). PETITION CONDEMNS CHURCH HIERARCHY IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR NOT CARRYING OUT ITS "PROPHETIC MISSION" AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00201 290937Z

FOR COLLABORATING WITH PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN MAINTAIN-

ING SYSTEM WHICH EXPLOITS PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE, DEPRIVES THEM OF SUCH RIGHTS AS SELF DETERMINATION AND CONTRIBUTES TO "CULTURAL GENOCIDE" BY ALIENATING THEM FROM THEIR OWN VALUES. BISHOP OF NAMPULA REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED PETITION IN SERMON DELIVERED ON MARCH 17. ALTHOUGH PETITION HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED, TEXT IS CIRCULATING WIDELY.

3. PETITION AND SERMON ROUSED CONSIDERABLE FEELING AGAINST BISHOP AND PRIESTS IN NAMPULA, WHERE ANGRY CROWDS BURNED BISHOP IN EFFIGY, DISPLAYED PLACARDS CALLING HIM TRAITOR. JOHANNESBURG STAR OF MARCH 21 REPORTED BISHOP AND SIX PRIESTS WERE MANHANDLED BY HOSTILE CROWD AT AIRPORT ON INTENDED DEPARTURE FOR LOURENCO MARQUES, BUT STAR OF MARCH 22 INDICATED BISHOP HIMSELF NOT ATTACKED PHYSICALLY AND PRIESTS ASSAULTED WERE ACTUALLY VICTIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY AS ACTUAL SIGNERS WERE ALL UNDER DETENTION AT ST. PETER'S MISSION OUTSIDE NAMPULA.

4. NOTICIAS OF MARCH 25 REPORTED EXPULSION OF SIX PRIESTS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM PAPAL NUNCIO IN LISBON TO HOLD OFF UNTIL HE CONCLUDED HIS VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE. NOTICIAS ARTICLE DESCRIBED PRIESTS' PETITION AS "ANTI-SCIENTIFIC" AND SAID IT REVEALED TOTAL IGNORANCE OF SITUATION IN ATTRIBUTING SOCIO-CULTURAL UNITY TO A TERRITORY COMPOSED OF VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS. ARTICLE ALSO CALLED PETITION "UNJUST" AND "ANTI-NATIONAL" IN CALLING FOR INDEPENDENCE AS ONLY WAY TO BRING ABOUT EVANGELIZATION OF TERRITORY.

5. PRESS REPORTS PAPAL NUNCIO D. JOSE MARIA SENSI ARRIVED MOZAMBIQUE MARCH 21 TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE BISHOPS IN QUELIMANE. MEETING CONCLUDED MARCH 23 WITH DELPHICALLY WORDED COMMUNIQUE PROTESTING REACTIONS AGAINST PRIESTS AND BISHOP OF NAMPULA "WHICH ONLY AGGRAVATE DIFFICULTIES BEING DEBATED", SUPPORTING DIALOGUE AS PROPER WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, DEPLORING ALL FORMS OF DISUNION AMONG RACES, SOCIAL CLASSES OR COMMUNITIES, AND APPEALING FOR UNDERSTANDING OF ALL, AS WELL AS UNITY AMONG BISHOPS AS GESTURE OF FIDELITY TO CHURCH.

6. COMMENT: WHILE FACTS NOT YET FULLY KNOWN, ABOVE INCIDENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LOUREN 00201 290937Z

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GROWING GAP BETWEEN SOME ELEMENTS OF CATHOLIC CHURCH AND GOVERNING AUTHORITIES. CHURCH, TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE BASTION OF SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE POLICIES OVERSEAS, HAS OVER PAST FEW YEARS SHOWN WHAT SOME AUTHORITIES CONSIDER ALARMING TENDENCY TOWARDS LIBERALISM. NUMBER OF CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES IN MOZAMBIQUE, INCLUDING MANY OF FOREIGN NATIONALITY, HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF PORTUGUESE CONDUCT OF WAR, HAVE ACCUSED MILITARY OF COMMITTING

ATROCITIES, HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT ALDEAMENTO POLICY, AND HAVE SHOWN SYMPATHY FOR FRELIMO CAUSE. SEVERAL CONFRONTATIONS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE RESULTING IN EXPULSION OF WHITE FATHERS IN 1971, TRIAL OF TWO MACUTI PRIESTS IN 1972, AND LONG DETENTION AND EVENTUAL FREEING OF TWO SPANISH BURGOS FATHERS IN 1973. RESENTMENT AGAINST CLERGY HOLDING SUCH VIEWS BY MILITARY AND THEIR SUPPORTERS HAS BEEN STRONG, AND IN NAMPULA, MILITARY HIGH COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, APPARENTLY EXCEEDED BOUNDS OF REASONABLENESS IN THIS LATEST EPISODE. BISHOP OF NAMPULA HAS ALWAYS BEEN STAUNCHLY OUT-SPOKEN CRITIC OF PORTUGUESE POLICY, BUT THIS TIME MAY HAVE FINALLY BROKEN THROUGH TOLERANCE LEVEL OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND MAY WELL BE REMOVED. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT IF EXPULSION OF SIX COMBONIAN FATHERS IS CARRIED OUT, MANY OTHER ITALIAN MEMBERS OF THE ORDER WILL LEAVE.
VAN OSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DETENTION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, SELFDETERMINATION, ANTICOLONIALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740069-0273
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974038/aaaaahdu.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF PRIESTS FROM MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: PINT, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005